701 San Patricio Taft, TX 78390 June 17, 2001

Whitney Rick Chief, Research and Promotion Staff Cotton Program, AMS USDA, Stop 0224,1400 Independence Avenue 2641-S South Building Washington, DC 20250-0224

Dear Whitney,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Cotton Research and Promotion Program.

I have produced cotton for the past thirty-eight years and I am still in the business, however, if it was not for the National Cotton Research and Promotion Program, I do not believe we would be in the "cotton business" today. In my opinion, the program is working and working well and is in the best interest of cotton, importers and the growers that this program remain in place and be permitted to function as it is at this time. I believe the growers, buyers, importers, manufacturers and retailers of cotton products profit from this program. I am not in favor of a referendum and do not believe one is needed at this time. I believe the money necessary to have a referendum could be better spent on research and promotion.

In my opinion all the safety nets are in place to assure the effectiveness of this program. It has a good track record. Let's keep it going.

As a cotton grower, I thank you for this opportunity to comment

Sincerely, Donald Swann

Donald Swann